



## News Release

UNITED STATES AIR FORCE

### 910<sup>TH</sup> Airlift Wing (AFRC)

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**  
**"Wing Commander to feel the heat"**

**DATE: June 11, 2003**

**NUMBER: 03-06-19**

**YOUNGSTOWN AIR RESERVE STATION, OHIO** – If the weather cooperates tomorrow morning, Thursday, June 12, Brig. Gen. Michael F. Gjede, commander of the 910<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing, and several of his key command staff personnel will get a first-hand feel of the intense heat of an aircraft fire during a firefighter training session at the base fire fighting facility.

Weather permitting, at 8 a.m. tomorrow morning, Brig. Gen. Gjede will suit up in full aircraft fire-fighting gear at the base fire department along with Col. Steve Chapman, commander of the 910<sup>th</sup> Operations Group; Col. Rob Belknap, commander of the 910<sup>th</sup> Mission Support Group; Lt. Col. Anna Schulte, commander of the 910<sup>th</sup> Maintenance Group, Col. Deborah Hart, commander of the 910<sup>th</sup> Medical Squadron, and Lt. Col. Fred Antoon, commander of the 910<sup>th</sup> Civil Engineer Squadron. The command staff members will then receive training about the equipment they'll be using and enter the base firefighting aircraft mockup which will be fully engulfed in flames, simulating an actual aircraft fire. Aircraft fires are known to reach temperatures near 2,000 degrees Fahrenheit.

The commanders will be escorted by federal firefighters from the base fire department when they enter the firefighting mockup airplane and will be safe at all times.

The air base Fire Department uses the fire training pit area to fulfill both Department of Defense and Federal Aviation Administration firefighter training requirements. These requirements pertain to both the civilian federal firefighters and the Air Force Reserve firefighters assigned to the department.

The firefighting training pit is used four times a year for the federal civilian firefighters and two times a year for Air Force Reserve firefighters. The civilian firefighters use it more due to the fact that they are divided into two shifts of firefighters.

The air base Fire Department has 48 civilian firefighters who benefit from the training and 36 military firefighters who use the pit to maintain their military qualifications. The air base fire department is able to save money by being able to provide realistic aircraft firefighter training on base instead of sending firefighters to other locations for training.

In addition, this year a Memorandum of Understanding for Joint use of the training facility was implemented. This MOU covers fire departments within Trumbull County to come out and participate with base firefighters during their regularly scheduled fire training. The MOU went online in May and as of yet there have been no Trumbull County firefighters participate, but that is expected to change during the summer months.

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**NEWS MEDIA ADVISORY:** Any news media representatives wishing to cover this **HOT** event should contact the 910<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing Public Affairs office at (330) 609-1236 no later than 4 p.m. today to arrange for their arrival. If thunderstorms are in the area tomorrow morning, the event will be called off no later than 7:15 a.m.